

(b) whether they have received representations from the public praying for the construction of bridges and culverts; and

(c) what action, if any, was taken on them?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It was decided after consultation with the Chief Engineer that the construction of the bridges may be deferred on account of financial considerations.

Canal from Alleppey to Changanacherry.

262. *MR. E. P. VARGHESE: Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the completion of the canal from Alleppey to Changanacherry?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: This will be considered after the proposal for opening a canal and road combined is decided.

Means of Communication in the coastal regions of Shertala and Ambalapuzha taluks.

263. *MR. E. P. VARGHESE: Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the means of communication in the coastal regions of Shertala and Ambalapuzha taluks?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: In view of the prohibitive cost of opening a road along the west coast from Alleppey to the northern State boundary, the question cannot be regarded as financially practicable.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know roughly the estimate of cost for constructing one mile of that road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: It would come to roughly about 15 thousand rupees.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: What is the distance of the proposed road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: I can't answer that question now, the road was not surveyed.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know at what rates the cross roads were constructed in those parts?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: That also, Sir, I am not in a position to answer.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: Was it not much below 15 thousand rupees per mile?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: Cross road construction would not be suitable for a main road which this would be. Many things would have to be taken into consideration in the matter of estimating the cost of a road. The price of land, labour charges and transport charges and cost of materials etc. all these will vary the cost and there are many other points also to be considered.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: Suppose, the land is given free, what will be the cost for constructing the road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: I cannot give you an estimate without knowing first all the conditions. I have mentioned what a rough figure for a road in that neighbourhood would be.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know whether it would be practicable to spread the work over a number of years?